Depot Town Rag

Volume 24, Number 7

September 2010

The place is going to the dogs

100% FREE *RAG* CONTENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

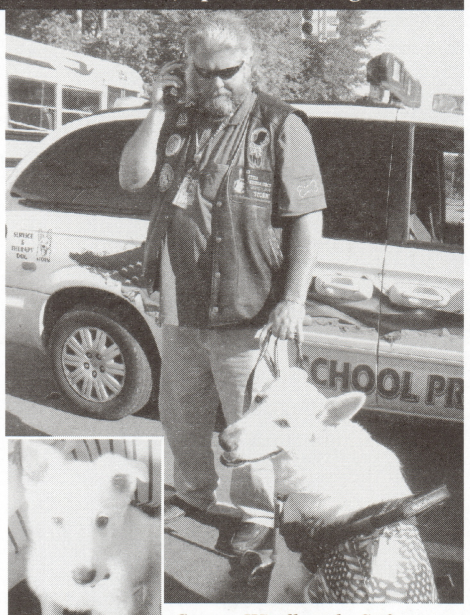
Dog Days enjoyed here year 'round

Big Corporate Media call the no-news-slump-time of year at the end of August "the dog days of summer" and they run photos of happy guard dogs and bewildered dogs stuck in underground drain pipes. The tradition is sometimes compared to the buy-our-product-or-we'll-kill-this-puppy theory of marketing. Mostly, they use dogs to fill dead space since most American newspapers do not yet run photos of nearly naked ladies on page three.

Depot Town doesn't have to wait for a slow time to feature its canine residents (or naked ladies); they are with us all year long. Regular readers said it was time to feature our pups just as we have feature our diverse compliment of businesses: shops, restaurants, saloons, museums, and more. We have dogs too—all year long.

Not long ago almost every district shop had dogs sleeping at the front door and we had to step over them to get in or out. The County Health Department won't let some places do that any more for some reason, but Staff Dogs can be found up and down these streets in most establishments.

Many of Depot Town's canines have both first and last names and they are addressed by everybody from Lon the postal carrier to the residents who pass by on the way for coffee. Some of our dogs are so laid back they do not even respond to these neighborly greetings; and a few are enthusiastic face-lickers (schmockers).



Storm, Wiedbusch, Safety van and YPS bus at Perry School. Inset: Storm as a pup

Some of our well-known local wags

No little Yappy Dogs could be found on this block. Police Dogs. Shepherds. Working Dogs. Those are the kinds of canines we find on dog-day-afternoons in Depot Town!

Shelby and Candace Pinaud at Leave No Stone Mortgage Lending

Loki walks the district every morning

Mike & Ginger from Forest Avenue

Nikki babysits Mindy Collis at Wolverine Law

Charley & Kathleen Grimes from Dwight Street

Squishy and Zera Anderson on a walk

A well-coordinated ensemble

Bones & Angie from up the hill

"I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the 'lower animals' (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me." *-Mark Twain*

Storm...

The legend continues

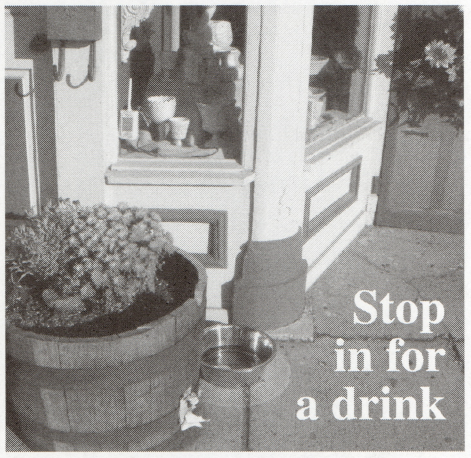
Just about every kid in Ypsilanti knows "Storm." Arctic Storm Wiedbusch Chaparral is a 124-lb white male German Shepard who is a service/therapy/iced water recovery dog. Storm was whelped November 5, 2007 and his owner/handler is Ron Wiedbusch who oversees the Safe Schools Program for the Ypsilanti Public Schools. Wiedbusch, 55, needs a highly trained K-9 due to physical health deteriorated from a previous auto accident.

Storm and Wiedbusch are regular features at both school and community events. Wiedbusch has been with the schools for over 30 years, but sees the last two with Storm at his side as the most rewarding. Storm has over 400 hours of instructional training and over 2,500 hours of socialization recorded. Storm has been featured in many news stories in the media. Wiedbusch loves this community and, with Storm, they attend many events to support our disabled veterans, children and adults with special needs, plus doing reading and safety programs at our schools, *[continued overleaf]*

Depot Dog's Code still up for adoption

[Please post this where your dog has ample opportunity for review]

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
3. The Litter Box is not a cookie jar.
4. The sofa is not a 'face towel'.
5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying 'hello'.
8. I don't need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm under the coffee table
9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the store - not after.
10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt.
11. I will not sit in the middle of the sidewalk and lick my crotch.
12. The cat is not a 'squeaky toy,' so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.



Just like the shops in Palm Beach, FL and Carmel by the Sea, CA, some Depot Towners provide sidewalk water bowls for our many regular four-legged friends

Pets in high places

Leonardo DaVinci kept horses as pets; Henri Mattise favored goldfish.

President Obama took several months to choose a dog for his tots when they moved to the White House last winter, but other Presidents had less pedestrian tastes in pets: George Washington kept a donkey, Teddy Roosevelt had 36 pets (including a macaw, pig, hen and rooster, and a hyena), Woodrow Wilson kept a ram (sheep), Calvin Coolidge had a pet raccoon and wallaby, and Jack Kennedy had a pony for Caroline.

Storm *[continued from p.1]*

libraries, day-cares, and hospitals. "My friends say Storm and I are peacocks," says Wiedbusch. His flowing gray hair and full beard, along with Storm's pearl white fur and custom-made uniform, turn heads wherever they go. Whether riding on their custom handicap 'trike' motorcycle with its special dog-shaped trailer, in Wiedbusch's convertible, or patrolling Ypsi's schoolbus stops, sporting events, security alarm runs in the highly decorated Safe Schools Van, the two are recognized and loved by kids and adults around the community. "I'm not a cowboy," says Wiedbusch. "I'm a Peace Warrior, and I will do everything in my power to keep my students safe."

Wiedbusch is married to Kendra and, together they have five children (Jordan, Tara, Scott, Dyna, and Kayla). Wiedbusch has received countless awards from Presidents on down, and is also a Homeland Security instructor. He is a constant promoter of the F.B.I." For Better Independence Assistance Dogs (www.ForBetterIndependence.org), a nonprofit organization training service dogs, therapy dogs, hearing dogs, and facility dogs in southeast Michigan. Wiedbusch says, without FBI's assistance and training of Storm, his quality of life would not be the same. He calls Lorie Grigg and Beth Spanski (co-founders and trainers) his own private guardian angels.

Storm has been trained to pick up and retrieve dropped items, assist with Wiedbusch's mobility and balance, open and close doors, pull a cart or wheelchair, and get help. With Wiedbusch, Storm often has to brace (bridge), locking his elbows, hips, shoulders and spine, allowing Wiedbusch to pull his 290-pound body off the ground after falls caused by his spinal injury. Wiedbusch can stand or move perfectly well for a short period of time, then requires Storm's assistance for walking, stairs, distance, or uneven surfaces. He is always by Wiedbusch's side ready to help. Wiedbusch says, "When I fall down hard, it's going to take more than a Chihuahua to get me up."

Storm is unique in the fact he is also a trained and certified therapy dog (www.tdidog.or). Together they do many programs about the Americans with Disability Act.

Wiedbusch is also a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) instructor and includes Storm in his training programs. Due to Wiedbusch's spinal injury, Storm has special vests and backpacks of emergency and medical supplies. Storm has also been trained as an Iced Water Record dog. With his custom-made flotation vest, Storm can take out a rescue-recovery line to a swimmer in trouble or a victim who has fallen through the ice.

Storm is not a lap dog; he is a gentle giant who knows only kindness and the consistency of his training. Storm attends training sessions every week and the FBI organization will continue to work with him to stay abreast of Wiedbusch's changing medical condition but, given the opportunity, he will cover your face with wet, sloppy kisses. Wiedbusch is equally prepared to deliver a heart-felt and heartwarming smile to accompany Storm's happy mannerisms.

Together, Wiedbusch and Storm provide a colorful and vital service to our students, our schools, and to our community.

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through Halloween

We've got cats, too:

Hardly, we hardly knew ye

Born wild, Hardly wandered into Depot Town, pregnant, in 1982. Her kittens were born in Apple Annie's front window and they all found good homes. When the building was closed for renovation in 1986, she came to live with the McKeevers in their upstairs apartment. She passed away in February 1998 while the family was traveling through Joplin, Missouri.

"Her name fit," says Carolyn McKeever. "Hardly worth it and hardly ever home."

O.K. How much?

How much is that doggie in the window?
The one with the waggley tail
How much is that doggie in the window?
"Our Depot Town dogs aren't for sale!"

There are no dogs for sale in Depot Town. Our dogs are not products; they are part of the our regular staff.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Enthusiastic singers are encouraged to add "arf arf" or "woof woof" depending on the size of dog they wish to emulate.

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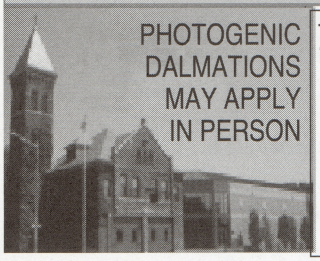

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Typical depot dog:

He wa'n't no common dog,
he wa'n't no mongrel;
he was a composite.
A composite dog is a dog
that is made up of all the
valuable qualities that's in
the dog breed —
kind of a syndicate;
and a mongrel is made up of
all riffraff that's left over.

All dogs go to heaven

Charlie and Anne-Marie jump over giant tomatoes at the Depot Town Farmers' Market

The 1989 United Artists animated film, *All Dogs Go to Heaven*, tells of a dog, Charlie B. Barkin (Burt Reynolds), who is murdered by his gangster business partner Carface Carruthers, but who forsakes his place in Heaven to return for revenge. In the process, he frees a young orphan girl, Anne-Marie, who Carface was holding captive because of her ability to talk to and understand animals.

After a few wrong turns of this insipid plot, Charlie learns he will have to become as civilized as our Depot Town dogs to earn his place in Heaven again.

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1001 good reasons for Firehouse dogs

SOURCE: www.petcaretips.net

Ever see a fire truck in a parade without a Dalmatian in the seat up front or in the lap of a smiling fireman riding in back? Ever visit a firehouse without having one of those black and white spotted dogs come wagging up to you?

Why is that? Why do Dalmatians and firehouses go together like smoke and fire?

It all began in the days of stagecoaches. Horse theft was so common that many stagecoach drivers strung a hammock between two stalls at night, then slept behind their horses to guard against thieves.

But, if the driver owned a Dalmatian, he could sleep in the house or the stagecoach hotel. Why? Because it was observed that Dalmatians formed an amazingly tight bond with horses. When they became close as with a team, no stranger would dare lay a hand on them.

Once the knowledge of this trait spread, more coach drivers went to great lengths to get Dalmatians to watch their teams. In fact, this practice became so common that Dalmatians were first called "coach dogs". They were used by coach drivers centuries ago in England, Scotland and Wales.

FREE ADVICE:

Is your dog showing symptoms of loneliness from being left alone all day while you are at work? Think about getting him a dog!

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Dogs and people in Ypsi's Riveside Park (from the DTCDC 2009 annual report)

In the next *Rag*:

Bums, tramps, and hobos are back—but it's not a quaint neighborhood festival this time!

Depot Town Rag

"All the news that fits, we print"
A monthly publication of
The Depot Town Association, Inc.

c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
Gary McKeever, President
Michelle Shankwiler, Vice President
Ruth Ann Jamnick, Treasurer
Sandee French, Scy. & Past President
Website: www.depottown.org
Rag editor: thomasdodd@comcast.net
DTA meets at 6:30 p.m on the third Wednesday of each month at Café Luwak, 42 East Cross Street.

It's official:
From Ypsilanti City Park Rules

Enjoy Ypsilanti Parks and help others enjoy them too by observing:

• Dogs must be on a leash (i.e. rope, chain, or similar physical restraint)

• Owners must clean up after pets. (*Restroom facilities are not offered in City parks; you'll have to carry it home with you. Just don't try to explain it to the dogs. They probably won't understand.*)

Park opens 6:00 a.m/closes at 10:00 p.m. Contact: Ypsilanti Parks and Recreation for more information 483.7272.

From the City Code:

Sec. 14-7 (a) Pets. No owners shall keep or house any animals or domestic fowl within the city except dogs, cats, nonpoisonous aquarium reptiles, aquarium amphibians, and aquarium fish commonly classified as pets and which are customarily kept or housed inside dwellings as household pets. *Amended for chickens, June 5, 2006*

You can get your pup licensed online at ewashtenaw.org/ecommerce/doglicense/dlHome.do

Licenses are sold in Washtenaw County on a year-round basis with expiration the last day of the year. Complete the online form today to get your Washtenaw County dog license and tag!

The Fee Schedule for Dog Licenses is set by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners, 1981, for licenses sold through the Treasurer's Office. The annual fees for dog licenses are as follows:

$10 Dog License
$5 Spayed or Neutered Dog License
$5 Dog Licenses Seniors age 65 or older
FREE dog licenses for leader dogs. A service dog is an assistance dog, specifically trained to help people who have a disability.

Curb your enthusiasm

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputies have been on the watch for loose mutts all summer, enforcing the leash law. Any leash longer than 6' will get a ticket, they say. And off leash? Fugeddaboudit!

Depot Town Association ANNUAL MEETING

6:30 p.m.15 September 2010 at Café Luwak

Annual Reports, plans for 2011

Our patriotic pups are also honored here in the annual Memorial Day Procession

Humane Society of Huron Valley advises, "Adoption is the best option."

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Every dog has his day down by the depot

Hundreds of pups and their people showed up for last spring's St. Pawdy's Day Parade

Sense of smell makes dogs good cops

SOURCE: Officers Steve White and Tim Tieken, Seattle Police K9 Unit

Ypsilanti Police Officer Anthony Schembri with K-9 partner Buky

Dogs live in an entirely different scent world than we do. They are profoundly affected by odors we cannot detect. A dog's ability to smell compares to ours like our power of reason to his.

A dog's sense of smell—olfaction—is used to obtain data important to his survival. The smell of a rabbit stimulates the drive to hunt and therefore nourish himself. The smell of a female in heat stimulates procreation. The smell of an enemy stimulates fight-or-flight behaviors.

A dog learns to pay attention to odors for which he associates negative or positive consequences. Using this capacity, police K9 Units can engineer his experience to modify or shape his behavior to serve our needs.

YPD's K-9, Buky keeping watch on the neighborhood

Almost 12% of the dog's brain and 50% of the nasal chambers are devoted to olfaction. The human receptor site contains approximately 5 million cells where the German Shepherd dog has approximately 220 million cells. Dividing the 5 million into the 220 million is not that simple. We must take into account the dog has a larger processing capacity. When that is coupled with a data collection system that is 44 times greater, the difference may be an exponential of 44. Since the dog's ability to indicate, if not detect, an odor increase with training and this will also widen the gap between man and dog.

As a person walks through the environment he leaves a scent-trail. That scent-trail is unique to the track-layer. A person's genetic make-up is unique to each individual. If we can collect a person's DNA from a crime scene, we can later have it matched to that person much the same way a fingerprint is matched to a specific person.

With changing health, the body's chemical structure also changes. A dog can now discriminate schizophrenics from healthy people by their odor. Dogs can also alert an epileptic to an on-coming seizure before the epileptic can feel the onset of the impending seizure. In the same way, a dog can learn to recognize an abnormality or change in body chemistry due to the person's state of mind.

Depot Dog (and cat) Tales

-Sally Richie

When we first opened Miller's Ice Cream Parlor in 1981, Depot Town was still a little unstable. I would take my dog Sly, a 90-pound German Shepherd, to work with me each day. He would stay in my office but I never shut the door. If I ever felt apprehensive I could look down from behind the back bar and see just the black of his nose under the café doors. He would never come out into the Parlor but I knew he was there if I needed him, and he never left the office other than that.

As for the cats—when we owned the Parlor we would see a feral cat every day when we opened for business. We named him Scardy because he wouldn't let you near him. We worked and worked with him and finally he would just step in the back door for food and water and then out again. He would wait for us each day to get his food. Then around Christmas he disappeared for about two weeks. We figured the elements had gotten him since it was so cold. Then one day he appeared at the back door COVERED in mud and silver tinsel. He came in and ate and we never saw him again. We think he was probably eating from the dumpster when it was picked up was taken to the dump and made it all the way back to us to say goodbye.

In 1991 we had so many feral cats that it was a nuisance. They kept reproducing and everyone kept feeding them because they felt sorry for them. We heard about the Zimmer Foundation that would help out. We met with the founder Kitty (yes, Kitty) Zimmer and she came up with the plan to trap them with live animal traps. Then they took them to the Ann Arbor Cat Clinic and had them spayed (for free) and then they re-released them where they got them in Depot Town.

Feral cats are very territorial; if you were to put them all to sleep another group would just move into the area. If you neuter them and re-release them they will stay in the area and keep reproducing ferals out.

The Foundation also provided food weekly for the cats and Leslie at Richard Reid's Hair Station volunteered to feed them every day.

Meet Saber where he works at Ypsi/A²'s St. Joseph Hospital

K-9 Officer Saber

Saber was born on January 20, 2001 in Czechoslovakia. He and Officer Paul Adams are certified by the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (N.A.P.C.H.). Saber joined the St. Joseph Hospital Security Department on January 10, 2002. The team specializes in aggression control, explosive and weapons detection, obedience and pet therapy.

Handlers indicate we should not pet working dogs, but kind words are welcome.

Top Ten Most Popular Dog and Puppy Names

SOURCE: Dogster.com

Female:		Male:	
Bella	3,285	Buddy	3,616
Lucy	3,246	Max	3,474
Daisy	3,182	Jake	2,264
Molly	3,047	Charlie	2,142
Maggie	2,663	Rocky	2,118
Sadie	2,280	Jack	2,077
Chloe	2,275	Bailey	1,872
Sophie	1,987	Toby	1,871
Lola	1,930	Buster	1,732
Bailey	1,855	Bear	1,555

To the editor:

We did not think much of the recent poll of the most popular dogs' names around here. Who cares what people's pets are called? Does this mean we'll have to start wearing licenses soon?

-Max & Sophie Bailey, Ann Arbor

RAGTIME

Coming events

Thursday, 9 September
Final Cruise Night of the season
Thanks to our loyal volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors for an outstanding season

Tuesday nights
Motorcycle Mania

Pianos 'Round Town

Late Sept. thru early Oct.
Live performance on street pianos during regular business hours

Sunday, 26 September
Orphan Car Show
Riverside Park

Sunday, 3 October
SEMI Chapter
Antique Truck Show
Riverside Park

September/October Event

Pianos 'Round Town

Depot Town's resident concert pianist, Korin Amos (Nelson Amos Studio) has arranged to have gently-used upright pianos from Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit placed on sidewalks around town and encourages anyone with the inclination to sit down and give up an impromptu concert during business hours from late September through early October.

The unique public art concept has had success in London and New York and is now ready to reach its maturity in Ypsilanti.

Questioning the ownership and rules of public space, previous performances have been described as "a provocation, inviting the public to engage with, activate and take ownership of their urban environment."

Come out and play Pianos 'Round Town

Say, say, oh playmate,
Come out and play with me
And bring your dollies three
Climb up my apple tree
Shout down my rain barrel
Slide down my cellar door
And we'll be jolly friends
Forever more!

Out on the sidewalk
That's where I'll play for you
My dolly's got the flu
So you can sit-in too!
Ain't got no rain barrel
Ain't got no cellar door
But we've got an old piano
Let's play some more!

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